

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6338

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BR, M

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATIONS OF U.S. LIGHT AIRCRAFT
INTO MEXICO AND BRAZIL

REF: STATE 174173

1. GOM POLICY ON IMPORTATION OF GENERAL AND UTILITY AVIATION AIRCRAFT WAS REPORTED TO USDOC INFO SECSTATE BY MEXICO 1434 OF 3 FEB 1976. POLICY REMAINS UNCHANGED AND REQUIRES IMPORTER TO FIRST JUSTIFY NEED FOR AIRCRAFT IMPORT AND OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, SECRETARIAT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION. THEREAFTER, AUTHORIZATION MUST BE ATTACHED TO IMPORT LICENSE APPLICATION WHICH IS SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (COMITE AVIONES Y EMBARCACIONES, SUBDIRECCION DE CONTROL DE COMERCIO EXTERIOR, DIRECCION DE COMERCIO) FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION. REQUESTS ARE HANDLED ON CASE BY CASE. REPORTEDLY, DECISIONS ARE MADE ON THE BASIS OF REQUESTED IMPORT'S CONTRIBUTION TO MEXICAN DEVELOPMENT GOALS, IMMEDIACY OF NEED AND WHETHER IT CAN BE FILLED DOMESTICALLY (SPRAYER AIRCRAFT ARE PRODUCED IN LIMITED QUANTITIES DOMESTICALLY).

2. EMBASSY EFFORTS TO OBTAIN REQUESTED DATA ON MEXICAN GENERAL AVIATION IMPORTS WITHIN THE LAST YEAR HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL SO FAR. A SIC SOURCE HOWEVER
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MAINTAINS SUCH INFORMATION IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE,

BUT THAT GENERAL AVIATION TYPE AIRCRAFT ARE STILL BEING IMPORTED, PARTICULARLY BY AEROTAXI AND INDUSTRIAL FIRMS. THE DESIRED INFORMATION PROBABLY COULD BE OBTAINED BY DETAILING AN EMBASSY STAFF MEMEBER TO THE DIRECCION GENERAL DE ESTADISTICAS TO UNDERTAKE THE TIME-CONSUMING TASK OF CULLING TRADE FIGURES FROM THE AVAILABLE RAW DATA WHICH IS YET TO BE PUBLISHED. EMBASSY QUESTIONS WHETHER SUCH AN EFFORT IS REALLY NECESSARY GIVEN FACT U.S. MANUFACTURERS ARE PREDOMINAT IN THE MARKET AND THE AVAILABILITY OF UP-TO-DATE DATA FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE U.S. SOURCES.

3. DESPITE RECENT INDICATIONS OF AN UPTURN IN THE MEXICAN TRADE PICTURE, THE EMBASSY WOULD EXPECT U.S. EXPORTS OF GENERAL AIRCRAFT TO MEXICO TO CONTINUE AT REPORTED PRESENT REDUCED LEVELS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR AND PERHAPS FOR SOME TIME THEREAFTER, GIVEN THE CARETAKER NATURE OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND THE DIFFICULTY OF REMOVING RESTRICTIONS ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN INVOKED NO MATTER HOW PERSUASIVE THE ARGUMENTS FOR THEIR REMOVAL MIGHT BE. THE PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW YEAR ARE UNCLEAR. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION MIGHT BE CONSIDERING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE PRESENT IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM WITH A TARIFF SYSTEM. A TARIFF SYSTEM WITHOUT DISCRETIONARY IMPORT LICENSING FOR AIRCRAFT, IF ADOPTED, WOULD OF COURSE ENABLE MARKET FORCES TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF SALES.

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